

Mr. Kerr fought bravely in the Korean war. In 1969, he started his own business. He was president of Kerr Electric for 25 years, yet, he still found the time to participate in the community. Mr. Kerr was the first president and organizer of the New Tammanee Club in downtown Jersey City. He was also the last president of the Original Monkey Club, the oldest social club in Jersey City.

As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, let us remember all of those Irish-American men and women who have made a difference in the United States. This is a day for us to acknowledge their achievements and feel proud to have them in the United States. This holiday is an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to Irish-Americans; past and present.

TRIBUTE TO PRIYA KARIM HAJI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Priya Karim Haji and her upcoming induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Priya Karim Haji is only 24 years old and has already made remarkable contributions to our community. Currently she is the executive director and cofounder of Free at Last Community and Rehabilitation Services, which is an organization providing drug and alcohol recovery programs. While in college, Ms. Haji developed a comprehensive after-school activities program for high school youth, helped to found a free medical clinic, and organized a Midnight Basketball League. In addition, she served as a facilitator for a weekly substance abuse group at San Quentin Prison, volunteered with the County AIDS Program, and worked as a substance abuse counselor for Links to Positive People.

Mr. Speaker, Priya Karim Haji is an outstanding citizen, and I commend her for her remarkable commitment and contributions to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she is being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

IN MEMORY OF SISTER ANN GILLEN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the recent passing of Sister Ann Gillen, one of the leading human rights activists on behalf of persecuted Jewish dissidents and refuseniks in the former Soviet Union. A member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Sister Ann served for 15 years as executive director of the Interreligious Task Force for Soviet Jewry. On numerous occasions, she traveled to the former Soviet Union to visit and support Jewish refuseniks and the families of political prisoners. In addition, Sister Ann was a frequent attendee at international human rights fora. An unwavering supporter of the Conference on Security and

Cooperation in Europe, Sister Ann served as a leader for several human rights delegations to the Belgrade, Madrid and Vienna CSCE Review Conferences where she urged political figures and diplomats to press the Soviets to live up to their own obligations under the Helsinki Accords and other international agreements.

Sister Ann was a woman of action when responding to the plight of Soviet Jews. In 1979, Sister Ann offered her own freedom to the Soviet Government in exchange for the release of long-time refusenik Ida Nudel. Needless to say, the Soviets refused, but her gesture helped dramatize Ida Nudel's plight to the world and bring additional pressure on Kremlin leaders to allow Nudel to emigrate. In 1982, Sister Ann was one of three human rights leaders to serve an historic Writ of Habeas Corpus on the Soviet Consul in Washington, DC for Andrei Sakharov. In 1989, while attending the Sakharov International Human Rights Conference in Moscow, Sister Ann publicly urged Soviet leaders to end state regulation of religion.

Long before others were encouraged to speak out on behalf of religious liberty and long before religious organizations collaborated on issues such as these, Sister Ann crossed ecumenical lines and reached out to persecuted, imprisoned human beings of all faiths—and in particular the Soviet Jews—to bring them hope and to fight tirelessly for their rights. Even in the last days of her life, Sister Ann did not think of her own pain, but of the suffering of religious believers around the world as she continued to plan conferences and projects that would go on after her own work had ended.

Sister Ann's fellow campaigner in the struggle for Soviet Jewry, Union of Councils President Pamela Braun Cohen, was certainly correct when she said, "No doubt thousands of Soviet Jews owe their freedom to Sister Ann's tireless efforts."

Dr. Kent Hill, President of Eastern Nazarene College and an expert on religion in the former Soviet Union, described Sister Ann as "a tireless, selfless, and effective advocate of those who suffered because of their religious convictions."

In an award presented to her by a coalition of human rights organizations just prior to her death, Sister Ann was honored with these words: "All of us who are novices in this work are very grateful for the paths that you have paved for us. This small token of our admiration pales in contrast to the contributions that you have given to make the world more humane. Perhaps, someday, we, following your example, may demonstrate the same depth of devotion and be a role model to other human rights activists."

Mr. Speaker, Sister Ann exemplified the finest qualities of her faith and her religious order as she reached across ethnic and religious boundaries to rescue strangers in distress. Her many friends and associates, and those who benefitted from her tireless efforts, will cherish her memory.

TRIBUTE TO LISA MARJORIE COAR

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Marjorie Coar and her upcoming induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame as a Young Woman of Excellence.

Lisa Marjorie Coar is a remarkable person who serves as a role model for everyone in our community. She is a 4.0 student at Burlingame High School, a member of its tennis team, the student body liaison to the Burlingame Human Relations Commission, and the student representative to the San Mateo Union High School Board of Trustees. Ms. Coar also plays an active role in the Black Student Union, volunteers with an afterschool day-care program, and serves food to the homeless. In addition, her achievements include being selected as a Girl's State Delegate, a National Achievement semifinalist, and the recipient of both the Edward Teller Award for Academic Excellence and the Xerox Humanities and Social Science Award.

Mr. Speaker, Lisa Marjorie Coar is an outstanding citizen, and I commend her for her remarkable commitment and contributions to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her as she is being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame as a Young Woman of Excellence.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WINNERS OF THE 1995 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to some outstanding citizens from the 11th District of Virginia. These are the people who have achieved the Governor's Award for Business and Education partnerships with Northern Virginia Community College [NVCC].

Richard A. Patterson, president of the Rosenthal automotive organization is a 22 year veteran of the automobile business. He has been with the Rosenthal organization for 14 years, where as CEO, he has strongly influenced development of the company's training and education.

The Rosenthal automotive organization, the Capital area's largest group of automobile dealerships, has made a significant contribution to the Arlington/Alexandria Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College [NVCC].

Dr. Semmler has been a professor of mathematics. He has authored or coauthored seven books in mathematics and has received numerous awards, including the Governor's Award from NVCC in 1991; the Once in a Century Award from Plattsburgh State University in 1990; and the Diploma of Honor Award from Pacific Western University in 1992.

Dr. Semmler has been a major contributor to Northern Virginia Community College for